



Entry Requirements for Honey Bee Hives and Appliances

In accordance with the Virginia Beekeeping Act, §3.2-4405 of the Code of Virginia, any person desiring entry of honey bee hives, nucleus colonies, used comb, or used beekeeping appliances must obtain a permit from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) before transport of the item or items into the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A request for an entry permit must be accompanied by evidence of inspection from the state of origin indicating the occurrence and extent of any honey bee disease or pest infestation, including but not limited to American foulbrood, small hive beetle, and Africanized honey bee.

A EUROPEAN HONEY BEE (EHB) CERTIFICATE must be issued by the state of origin for hives or nucleus colonies shipped from a state infested with the African or Africanized Honey Bee (AHB). A copy of the EHB certificate must be included with each shipment. In addition, all queens originating from an AHB infested state must be clipped and marked prior to shipment.

Hives, nucleus colonies, comb, and beekeeping appliances that exhibit a honey bee contagious disease or pest infestation shall be prohibited entry into the Commonwealth.

An entry permit request must include the anticipated entry and departure dates and intended destination of honey bee hive(s) or other items entering the Commonwealth.

Hives, nucleus colonies, comb, and beekeeping appliances entering Virginia are subject to inspection by the VDACS apiary inspection service to determine the occurrence and extent of disease and pest infestation.

1. The owner of a hive, nucleus colony, comb, or beekeeping appliance brought or shipped into Virginia and found to contain a contagious disease or pest infestation that may result in a departure from a sound state of health of honey bees must remove the item from the Commonwealth or destroy the item within 10 days after notification by the State Apiarist or VDACS employee.
2. The owner of a hive, nucleus colony, comb, or beekeeping appliance found to be infested with AHB must remove the item from the Commonwealth or depopulate the item within 10 days after notification by the State Apiarist or VDACS employee.

For additional information contact the Virginia Department of Agriculture, Office of Plant Industry Services, at 804-786-3515 or email VABees@vdacs.virginia.gov.